Research Proposal

Bronte Ferguson

Year 12 Stage 2 Research Project

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For this year’s research project I have decided to study homophobia. My reasoning for this topic choice is that it’s a growing problem that I feel extremely strongly about. Several of my friends are openly gay and get harassed, abused and bullied daily whether it’s over the internet, texting, verbal or physical. Why should there be such a big issue over liking the same sex or being different? I am really excited to have the opportunity to do an in-depth research into this topic as I wish to gain a better understanding on the subject and hopefully be able to make a difference before it gets worse.   
My research hypothesis states: Discrimination against gay men is worse than that of gay women.  
  
I’ve jotted down and brainstormed my ideas on how I am going to obtain my information. As a starting point I am happy to read through some secondary sources such as books and articles I have already borrowed from my local library to gain a better understanding on the subject. Once I have enough knowledge and information to get my overall project up and running, I will then proceed to conduct surveys to people within the gay community to get an in depth look on their views on homophobia and how often and to what extent it affects them. I plan to use other researching tools available to me at Woodville High School such as EBSCO where I can find up to date articles, interviews and various other sources on the topic.  
  
I’d really like to get an interview with a specialist on Homophobia. I’ll do what I can to get some time with a specialist from the Gay and Lesbian unit in the South Australian Police Force to discuss homosexuality, homophobia and statistics on bullying reports.  
  
I plan to have my surveys written and handed out by week 6 allowing remaining weeks to evaluate and graph my information. These results and figures will all be included in my final research project which will be a written paper as literature is one of my strong points. I don’t plan on drafting anything until next term as I plan to use this current term purely for research. My aim is to keep up with my journals every week so I don’t fall behind.   
  
I am addressing a large problem that will help me develop useful citizen skills and capabilities. As an ethical researcher, I will need to respect the privacy and confidentiality of names and information given to me.   
  
I am very excited to get this project up and running.